

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-02 /042 W

----- 066219

O R 260955Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4816

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH, AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: UPDATE FOR BURUNDI GOVT ON KIDNAP SITUATION

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PREARRANGED APPOINTMENT THIS MORNING WITH FONOFF DIRGEN MANGONA TO GIVE GRB SOME INDICATION OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT BUJUMBURA IS HENCEFORTH LIKELY TO BE OUTSIDE MAINSTREAM OF EVENTS. WITH LITTLE DIG AT HIS REFUSAL MAY 24 TO BROADCAST APPEAL TO KIDNAPPERS, I TOLD HIM THAT TANZANIAN TRANSMISSION IN SWAHILI HAD BEEN IMPORTANT IN GETTING KIDNAPPERS TO TAKE ACTION OF RELEASING MISS SMUTS AND STARTING DIALOGUE. IN ANY CASE, SHE WOULD NOW BE SEEING TANZANIAN OFFICIALS IN DAR ES SALAAM, WHO WOULD HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS ON NEXT STEPS. I WAS PURPOSELY VAGUE ON DETAILS, BUT DID MENTION THAT SMUTS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN HELD BY SOME SORT OF SMALL GROUP ON ZAIRE SIDE OF LAKE, WHICH WAS NOW SEEKING MONEY, ARMS, AND RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS IN TANZANIAN CUSTODY. I NOTED THAT THESE MATTERS WERE INEVITABLY SENSITIVE TO KINSHASA AND THAT DISCRETION WOULD BE NEEDED TO PROTECT LIVES AT STAKE. IN ANY CASE, BURUNDI WAS CLEARLY ON THE SIDELINES

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AT PRESENT.

MANGONA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE INFORMATION AND SAID HE WAS SURE NYERERE, WHOSE WISDOM HE HAD COME SO MUCH TO ADMIRE WHILE GRB AMB IN DAR, WOULD MOVE SENSIBLY AND PRUDENTLY. HE WONDERED WHAT OUTSIDE FORCES MIGHT BE BEHIND THE KIDNAP BAND. I SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT BE ONE OF YOUTHFUL GROUPS WITH MARXIST-LENINIST REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS IN EVIDENCE ELSEWHERE IN WORLD. HE SAID PEKING WOULD NOT NOW SPONSOR SUCH MOVEMENT, BUT HE SUGGESTED NAMES OF KABILA AND SOUMIALOT AS POSSIBLY INVOLVED. HE THOUGHT THEY WERE LIVING IN DREAM WORLD IF THEY WERE TRYING TO OUST MOBUTU. HE ALSO SAID THAT ZAIRE NEED NOT RPT NOT BE ASHAMED OF NOT THOROUGHLY CONTROLLING WESTERN SHORE OF LAKE SINCE IT WAS WILDLY MOUNTAINOUS AND DENSELY FORESTED. EVEN THE BELGIANS HAD NOT RPT NOT HAD FULL AUTHORITY, AND, OF COURSE, ANY LITTLE GROUP COULD EASILY ACQUIRE SOME ARMS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE HOPED KIDNAP VICTIMS WOULD FINALLY BE RESCUED SAFELY.

MARK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUJUMB00338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0264
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaapoo.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE FOR BURUNDI GOVT ON KIDNAP SITUATION I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PREARRANGED APPOINTMENT THIS MORNING WITH
TAGS: CASC, PINS, US, BY, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVE), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006